

The Elmwood Village Charter School
Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, August 19, 2009

Trustees Present: Mimi Barnes-Coppola, Marguerite Battaglia-Evans, Shirley Courton, Liz Evans, Concetta Ferguson, Kathy Franklin-Adams, Kitty Herrick, Paul Marzello, Pam Pollock, Paul Souter

Trustees Absent: Regan Ihde

Others Present: John Sheffield, EVCS Director, and James Carminati of Waterbourne Real Estate Advisors

Liz Evans called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

1. Liz presented the agenda for the meeting. There were no additions. Approved.
2. Minutes from the meeting held on June 17, 2009, were corrected to state that the first appraisal of the School #36 building was “unrestricted” and came in at \$725,000. **Kathy moved and Shirley seconded that the minutes be accepted as corrected. Approved.**

3. BOARD MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Liz read a portion of the letter from Sue Gibbons at the NY State Education Department confirming our appointment of Concetta Ferguson and Paul Marzello as new members of the EVCS Board of Trustees. Liz also reported that, in a phone call earlier in the day, Regan Ihde resigned her seat on the Board. An official letter will follow. Since Regan has been serving as treasurer, we discussed the advisability of seeking a replacement with some financial expertise.

4. DIRECTOR’S SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Enrollment - Projected enrollment for 2009-2010 is 174-177 students. Two students have been recommended to repeat second grade. Hence, if all current and newly expected students enroll, we will be over the target 175. This will require a charter amendment.

Staffing - John distributed a complete list of staff and assignments for the 2009-2010 academic year. EVCS is pleased to announce the return of two former staff members: Theresa Jankowski has returned to Buffalo from Philadelphia and will rejoin the faculty as third grade teacher; Becky McQuillan will be returning to EVCS as fourth grade teaching assistant. Michelle Weaver, an AmeriCorps Recovery member will join the faculty as Title I assistant teacher. Ms. Weaver is certified to teach grades one through six and has a concentration in literacy.

Professional Development - Professional development for staff began August 17 and will continue through August 28. A variety of topics will be covered. John expressed his pride in the teachers who have shown professionalism in their eagerness to learn and participate.

Progress Toward Goals - In 2009 EVCS surpassed all performance targets for the 2008-2009 school year. From the baseline year in 2007, students performing at or above proficiency on the NYS ELA Assessment increased by 23% , and students performing at or above proficiency on the NYS Math Assessment increased by 25%. Compared to the same grade levels in 2009, students at EVCS exceeded district and state performance in every area. Plans to better meet the needs of transfer students and students needing

special education services were outlined. To that end, a contract has been signed with Buffalo Hearing and Speech Center to provide OT, PT, and speech services to students who require them. This change will ensure that therapists follow the EVCS calendar and schedule. A table listing performance on a goal by goal basis was distributed.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

No Treasurer's report was available.

6. OLD BUSINESS

Immediately prior to this evening's meeting, Board members visited School#36 which has been leased by Tapestry Charter School for the upcoming academic Year. We toured the building to get an idea of the space and the renovations which might be needed. James Carminatti, President of Waterbourne Real Estate Advisors, presented some thoughts about our current location and obligations. We are currently 3 years into a 20-year lease. At \$9/square foot, he considered our current location a reasonable market value. He expressed uncertainty regarding the possibility of subletting the space should we decide to move. He stated that "Real estate activity is starting, but action is slow." He added that there had been a specialty remodel to outfit the building as a school and that another tenant might be unable to use the building in its current form. He noted that it might be difficult to subdivide the building and allow for proper egress, etc.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A proposal from Chameleon Community Schools Project, Inc. regarding the EVCS 5th Year Charter renewal process was presented. Chameleon proposed: to complete a draft copy of Renewal Application Part I; to complete a curriculum for grades 7 and 8 which is compatible with the EVCS K-6 curriculum; to work with EVCS staff to develop a sample vertical alignment to the grade 6 program; and to meet with EVCS committee members to review requirements for Renewal Application Part II. Complex discussion ensued. **Mimi moved and Concetta seconded that EVCS programs be expanded to include grades 7 and 8. Approved.** Cathy abstained. There was further discussion regarding whether sufficient information was really available to make decisions regarding expansion of the school. **Paul moved and Shirley seconded that the previously passed motion be rescinded. Approved.** A special meeting of the Board of Trustees was scheduled for Thursday, September 10, 2009, for the purpose of discussing the pros and cons of expansion and possible relocation of EVCS.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mimi and seconded by Liz. Approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Pollock

FUTURE DATES:

-Special meeting of the EVCS Board: Thursday, September 10, 2009

-Next regular meeting of the EVCS Board is Wednesday, September 16, 2009, at 6:00 p.m.

-Second Annual Evening in the Atrium is Saturday, September 26, 2009

